

AMENDMENT TO 2601, AS REPORTED
OFFERED BY MR. SOUDER OF INDIANA

In subtitle B of title XI, redesignate sections 1111 through 1126 as sections 1121 through 1136, respectively.

In subtitle A of title XI, add at the end the following new section:

1 **SEC. 1111. ACQUISITION OF MARITIME REFUELING SUP-**
2 **PORT VESSEL FOR UNITED STATES DRUG**
3 **INTERDICTION EFFORTS IN THE EASTERN**
4 **PACIFIC MARITIME TRANSIT ZONE.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

6 (1) The Department of Defense and Depart-
7 ment of Homeland Security report that narcotics
8 smuggling organizations continue to avoid United
9 States drug interdiction efforts by transiting deep
10 into the Eastern Pacific, well beyond the capabilities
11 of United States ships.

12 (2) Drug trafficking organizations have already
13 adapted to these long transit routes by employing
14 logistical support vessels (LSVs) to refuel drug laden
15 boats on the high seas.



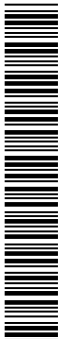
1 (3) United States drug interdiction forces cur-
2 rently do not have this at-sea refueling capability.

3 (4) On June 29, 2005, the Subcommittee on
4 Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Re-
5 sources of the Committee on Government Reform of
6 the House of Representatives held a hearing entitled
7 “Interrupting Narco-Terrorist Threats on the High
8 Seas: Do We Have Enough Wind in Our Sails?”.

9 (5) During the hearing, the acting United
10 States Interdiction Coordinator (USIC), Ralph
11 Utley, spoke of the substantial benefits to be gained
12 if a maritime “oiler” ship were employed to support
13 interdiction activities in the Eastern Pacific mari-
14 time transit zone.

15 (6) The Subcommittee was very interested to
16 see that all witnesses representing the Department
17 of Defense, the Office of National Drug Control Pol-
18 icy (ONDCP), the United States Coast Guard, Cus-
19 toms and Border Protection, and the Drug Enforce-
20 ment Administration testified that they believe the
21 employment of a maritime oiler vessel would be an
22 immediate improvement to United States interdic-
23 tion operations in the transit zone.

24 (7) On any given day, United States and Allied
25 forces seize an average of 100 kilograms of cocaine



1 per ship when patrolling in the Eastern Pacific mar-
2 itime transit zone.

3 (8) Each year, the United States Coast Guard
4 estimates it loses 100 “ship-days” due to lengthy re-
5 fueling trips to Central and South American coun-
6 tries. The United States Navy also faces similar re-
7 fueling challenges.

8 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
9 are authorized to be appropriated \$25,000,000 for fiscal
10 year 2006 and \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2007 for the
11 Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement
12 Affairs (INL) of the Department of State to purchase or
13 lease a maritime refueling support vessel that is capable
14 of refueling United States and allied warships and vessels
15 employed in support of United States drug interdiction
16 duties in the Eastern Pacific maritime transit zone.

